Claims 43-47, 49, 51-71, 73, and 75-80 were rejected over prior art. Claims 48, 50, 72 and 74 were allowed.

Claims 43-47, 49, 59, 68-71, 73 and 80 are being cancelled. Other amendments are being made to place claims 51-58, 60-67 and 75-79 in condition for allowance. New claims 81-92 are being added.

None of the claim amendments involve issues of patentability. The claims are merely being amended to accept the subject matter that the Examiner found patentable in claims 48, 50, 72 and 74.

More specifically, independent claims 52, 58, 77 and 78 are being amended to include allowable subject matter from allowed claim 48 (different resilient materials in the support arms). Immaterial limitations related to the lengths of the supports are being deleted from claims 77 and 78. New independent claims 89, 91, 81 and 82 are identical to amended claims 52, 58, 77 and 78, respectively, but instead include allowable subject matter from allowed claim 50 (an aperture in at least one support arm).

In allowed claim 74, the term "slot" is being changed to --aperture--, to conform it to the language of allowed claim 50. New claim 92 depends from claim 74 and recites that "said aperture is a slot". Thus, amended claim 74 contains patentable subject matter from claim 50, and new claim 92 is substantially identical to claim 74 as originally allowed.

New dependent claims 83-88 and 90 are similar to claims 53, 61, 62, 76, and 79, and depend from other claims that are allowable as discussed above.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, allowance of claims 51-58, 60-67, 75-79, and 81-92 is requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on March 10, 1999:

James A. Finder

Name of applicant assignee or
Registered Representative

Signature
March 10, 1999

Date of Signature

JAF:rk

Respectfully submitted,

James W. Finder

Registration No.: 30,173

OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP

1180 Avenue of the Americas New York, New York 10036-8403

Telephone: (212) 382-0700